

**MINUTES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
TENANT-LANDLORD COMMISSION**

March 20, 2008

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room #9
Chair Liff, presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners: Geier-Smith, Kocsis, McRae,
Rosier, Liff, Aho,

Absentees:

Gomez

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable Communications and Consumer
Protection
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs
Vee Johnson, Staff Liaison
Consumer Affairs Branch

Guests:

Jeff Blackford, Operations Chief
Code Enforcement Strike Team
David Ellis, Neighborhood & Community
Building Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 7:35p.m. by Chair Liff.

Minutes

The February 21, 2008, minutes were approved.

Reports

- Chair Liff commented about tenant issues in the region and shared information from news articles.
- **Committee reports** - There were no Committee reports.

Staff reports

- The first TLC Outreach event is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2008, with clients of the Reston Interfaith Housing Corporation. Reston Interfaith is a nonprofit organization that promotes self-sufficiency for those in need of affordable housing and other human services. The presentation will be conducted by Liaison Johnson, and will provide information on choosing an apartment and lease agreements. An apartment checklist was distributed to the Commissioners that will be used for outreach activities.
- Liaison Johnson reviewed the TLC calendar. This calendar will provide updated information about Commission meetings, activities and events.
- Branch Chief Jones informed that the Tenant-Landlord brochure has been finalized and arrangements will be made for Spanish translation. Commissioners requested to review the final brochure. Staff will forward a copy to Commissioners.
- Director Liberman distributed flyers about a Fair Housing Conference for Real Estate Professionals on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, sponsored by the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission.
- Director Liberman discussed and provided information about the 2009 budget. The final budget will go into effect on July 1, 2008, for the 2009 fiscal year.
- No questions or comments regarding the statistical reports.

Commission Matters

- The attendance record for 2008 was reviewed and approved.
- There are currently three vacancies, one landlord, one citizen, and one tenant.
- The updated roster, based on the BAC membership report was provided to the Commissioners.

Old Business

1. Tenant-Landlord program for Cable Channel 16
 - The Channel 16 Advisory Committee did not have a report.
 - The Consumer Focus program on repairs and maintenance continues to be aired on Channel 16 after a brief hiatus during National Consumer Protection Week

New Business

1. Presentation by the Fairfax County Enhanced Code Enforcement Strike Team
 - Jeff Blackford and David Ellis discussed the strike teams' activities from June 2007 through March 20, 2008, and provided answers to Commissioners' concerns and issues.
 - Staff will follow up with the Strike Team to find out how Consumer Affairs and the Commission can be of assistance to the strike team as it relates to tenants.

2. Election of Vice-Chairs and Secretary

- It was moved and seconded to accept the following slate of candidates:
Tenant Vice-Chair- Commissioner Aho Secretary- Commissioner Geier-Smith
Landlord Vice-Chair - Commissioner Kocsis

The slate was accepted by unanimous vote of the Commissioners.

3. Speakers for upcoming meetings

- An invitation has been extended to Pat Petro, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Community Health and Safety Section, Environmental Health Division of the Fairfax County Health Department to discuss health trends affecting tenants and landlords at the April 17, 2008 meeting.
- Commissioner Aho requested that an invitation be extended to the Board Members of the Housing and Community Development Committee. Staff will find out who is appointed so an invitation can be extended.
- Commissioners would like to hear from social workers who support the strike team for information about services provided to tenants displaced as a result of code enforcement actions. Staff will obtain this information so an invitation can be extended.

4. Legislative News

- The 2008 General Assembly Session, which convened on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, adjourned on Thursday, March 13, 2008. The Reconvened Regular Session will meet Wednesday, April 23, 2008, to consider Governor's actions on legislation from the Regular Session. Staff will provide a legislative report at the July meeting.
- Commissioner Geier-Smith commented about HB 720. After bills are finalized, the Commission will review them to determine possible initiatives for the upcoming 2009 legislative session.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.